

**REMARKS**

The present Amendment amends claims 1-16 and cancels claims 17-19. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-16.

In the Office Action the Examiner states that an Information Disclosure Statement provided at the time of filing is missing from the file wrapper and requests that Applicants provide a duplicate copy. Applicants do not have any record of any such Information Disclosure Statement. Therefore, no duplicate copy thereof can be provided. The Examiner is respectfully requested to provide further information as to such alleged Information Disclosure Statement so that the record is clear.

Claim 1 stands objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner in the Office Action. Amendments were made to claim 1 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-11 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as the invention. Various amendments were made throughout claims 1-11 and 16 to bring them into conformity with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Therefore, Applicants submit that this rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Specifically, amendments were made throughout the claims so as to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner in the Office Action.

The Examiner's cooperation is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' Attorney by telephone should any further indefinite matters be discovered so that appropriate amendments may be made.

Amendments were made throughout the specification and Abstract to correct minor errors grammatical and editorial in nature discovered upon review. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in the Office Action that claims 12-15 are allowed. It should be noted that minor amendments were made throughout claims 12-15 so as to correct minor errors grammatical and editorial in nature discovered upon review. However, the scope of these claims have not changed and therefore these claims should remain allowed.

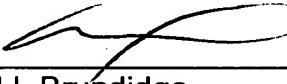
Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in the Office Action that claims 1-11 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. As indicated above, amendments were made throughout claims 1-11 and 16 to overcome the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection. Therefore, claims 1-11 and 16 are now allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance based on claims 1-16. Accordingly, early allowance of the present application based on claims 1-16 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.38907X00).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



---

Carl I. Brundidge  
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc  
(703) 312-6600